NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Newark.—On Friday week the church restoration committee received tenders for the works as follows:—Mr. Cooper, of Derby, 4,191*l.*; Mr. Broadbent, of Leicester, 4,823*l.*; Mr. Rattee, of Cambridge, in conjunction with Mr. John Cooper, Mr. Edwin Marshall, and Mr. Spreckley, 6,221*l.*; Mr. Rattee, of Cambridge, 5,910*l.*; Mr. Ruddle, of Peterborough, 6,215*l.* These contracts exclude some extras. A sub-committee was appointed to examine the tenders and report.

Ulceby.—The church here was re-opened on Tuesday in last week, after being about twelve months under repair and restoration. The western gallery has been taken down, and the tower arch and masonry of the interior of the tower thus opened to the church. The decayed plastering has been removed from the walls of nave, aisles, and clearstory, exposing the ancient stonework laid in regular courses, cleansed and pointed at the jointings. All the stone work of the piers and arches of nave, as well as of jambs, of windows, of aisles, and clearstory, have been cleansed of whitewash, and jointings pointed. The nave and aisles have been fitted up with square-ended benches of oak, and stalls with poppy-heads, added to the chancel. Oak screens separate the north aisle of nave and chancel from the chantry chapel, to be used as a vestry. The aisles of the nave and a great portion of chancel have been laid with Minton's encaustic tiles. A stained glass memorial window has been placed at the east end of chantry chapel. The several works have been executed by Messrs. Wm. Blanchard, of Ulceby, joiner and carpenter; Wm. West, of Wooton, bricklayer; and Binks and Son, of Hull, painters and decorators. The ornamental ironwork was done by the village blacksmith. The architect is Mr. W. D. Keyworth, of Hull.

Oxford.—The board of guardians held a meeting on Thursday in last week, to decide on a site for the erection of a new workhouse.

Bristol Deverill.—The Rev. W. Barnes, the rector, has within the last few weeks, at his own expense, placed a spire on the steeple of the parish church of St. Michael. Messrs. Hale and Harris, of Warminster, were the contractors, and Mr. Wyatt, the architect. On Thursday in last week all the artizans employed in the erection were invited by the rector to a good substantial English supper in the school-room. The chancel is said to require enlargement.

Bristol.—The outer dock-gate adjoining the river at Clifton gave way last week, with the pressure of the tide, and canted right over. One of the hinges had become loosened, and the gate had started out of its position. Some men were in the act of drawing it back to its place by machinery when the accident occurred.

High Rochester.—It is understood that some further important discoveries in Roman antiquities have been made at High Rochester, in Redesdale (the ancient Bremenium), by the gentlemen engaged by his Grace the Duke of Northumberland in making excavations at that celebrated Roman station.

Blaydon.—The opening of a building for the Mechanics' Institution of this place, was celebrated on Monday in last week. The building is composed of a hall 39 feet by 25 feet, with a gallery 25 feet by 13; a large room for a news-room and library; a dwelling-house, and a large yard. The hall will be used as a public school during the day, and for lectures and classes in the evening. It is let on Sundays to the Wesleyan Reformers. The members have a benefit society established consisting of 91 members, in addition to the ordinary advantages contemplated by such institutions. The building has been erected by Messrs. Marsh and Robinson. By the exertions of Mr. Joseph Cowan, jun. and the intelligent working men of the village, about 200*l.* have been raised; but the structure, with the usual fittings, will cost about 500*l.* "Mr. Thomas Emmerson," says the *Shields Gazette*, "has enlarged the play-ground for the boys; Mr. James Clephen, the warm-hearted editor of the *Gateshead Observer*, has sent the members a present of books, and the working men at Mr. Hawdon's foundry, in addition to a subscription of 5*l.* cast the metal rails forming the balustrades to the platform, Mr. Hawdon furnishing the metal." Money subscriptions are also coming in.

Inverness.—There is at present here, according to the *Inverness Advertiser*, an active movement in favour of cheap and good gas. As in so many other places, monopoly has induced a state of things, as regards both price and purity, which the inhabitants seem to have determined at length to get rid of. A meeting in the town hall, crowded to excess, was held on Tuesday in last week, and resolutions were passed in favour of the establishment of a new company, and of inquiries as to the real merits of Whyte's hydro-carbon gas, with which Dunkeld has been recently lighted.——The purchase of the old Free Church at Inverness, it is said, has been all but completed by Mr. Roualeyn Cumming, the African traveller, to be converted into a museum or depository for the curiosities, &c. collected by him in his excursions through the African deserts and wilds of Caffraria. The price agreed upon is said to be 300*l.*

Nairn.—For several years past, says a local paper, the lower part of the town of Nairn has been in course of improvement by the building of a useful class of dwelling-houses. Of late the "West-end" appears to have received an impulse in the building spirit, by the erection of the Seceder Kirk in that quarter. This is now to be followed by the building of several cottages in the same vicinity, according to plans by Messrs. Mackenzie and Matthews, architects, Elgin.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE AT NEW YORK.

The plans, by the successful competitors, Messrs. Carstensen and Gildemeister, of New York, having been shown to the editor of the *New York Herald*, he gives a full account of them, from which we glean the following particulars. The building is to be erected in Reservoir-square.

The general idea of the edifice is a Greek cross, surmounted by a dome at the intersection. Each diameter of the cross will be 365 feet 5 inches long. There will be three similar entrances—one on the Sixth avenue, one on the Fortieth, and one on Forty-second-street. Each entrance will be 47 feet wide, and that on the Sixth avenue will be approached by a flight of eight steps. Each arm of the cross is, on the ground-plan, 149 feet broad. This is divided into a central nave and two aisles, one on each side; the nave 41 feet wide; each aisle 54 feet wide. On each front is a large semi-circular fanlight, 41 feet broad and 21 feet high, answering to the arch of the nave. The central portion, or nave, is carried up to the height of 67 feet, and the semi-circular arch by which it is spanned is 41 feet broad. There are thus, in effect, two arched naves, crossing each other at right angles, 41 feet broad, 67 feet high, to the crown of the arch, and 365 feet long; and on each side of these naves is an aisle, 54 feet broad, and 45 feet high. The exterior of the ridgeway of the nave is 71 feet. The central dome is 100 feet in diameter—68 feet inside from floor to spring of arch, and 118 feet to the crown; and on the outside, with the lantern, 149 feet. The exterior angles of the building are filled up with a sort of lean-to, 24 feet high, which gives the ground-plan an octagonal shape, each side or face being 149 feet wide. At each angle is an octagonal tower, 8 feet in diameter, and 75 feet high. Each aisle is covered by a gallery of its own width, and 24 feet from the floor. The building contains, on its ground floor, 111,000 square feet of space, and in its galleries, which are 54 feet wide, 62,000 square feet more, making a total area of 173,000 square feet for the purposes of exhibition. There are thus in the ground floor two acres and a-half, or exactly 2·52·100; in the galleries, one acre and 44·100; total, within an inconsiderable fraction of four acres. There are on the ground floor 190 columns, 21 feet above the floor, 8 inches diameter, cast hollow, of different thicknesses, from half an inch to one inch thick: on the gallery floor there are 122 columns.

The *Herald*, in order to show the extent of the building, makes a great many comparisons with others extant in New York and elsewhere, and at last comes to "the true rival, which," says he, "will probably be thought to be the Hyde-park Paxton Building, now erecting at Sydenham. That building was 1,848 long by 408 feet broad, thus giving, on the ground floor, 753,984 square feet; and, with the transept, 18 acres. Our building covers only one-eighth of the ground occupied by the Hyde Park monster: the available space, with the galleries, is about one-fifth or one-sixth. But it would be very absurd to erect one here of such gigantic dimensions. Besides, the English building was very far from being filled with anything that any body desired to see. There were a great many twopenny matters in it, and a good deal of unoccupied space." Now, the less Jonathan says on that point, we think, the better. On this side the Atlantic, at least, it only reminds one of his own ludicrous ambition, and of the immense space which he filled with—nothing—not even "twopenny matters." "As to the architectural effect and beauty of the building," he adds, "there will be no sort of comparison. In fact, saving the transept, which was a mere matter of accident, imagined by Mr. Henderson (?) to save the elms, the Hyde-park building was nothing more nor less than a large box, and had just as much architecture about it as might have been expected from a people so devoid of taste as are the English. This was perfectly well understood there then and now." Whatever were the merits of the *departed*, certainly those of its American rival do not excel it on the score of originality. We have only to cut away the long ends of the "large box," and add them to its sides, to arrive at that idea. Much may be made of it, however, in detail, and we only hope that it will square with the advanced taste which, by implication, must prevail on the other side of the Atlantic. Nevertheless, the *Herald* thinks that "the directors have been *fortunate* in selecting a plan from this side of the water, and in not going to England for one." "Mr. Gildemeister," it adds, in speaking of the architects, "has been some time settled among us, and is evidently, from the drawings, not only an architect, but an artist. Mr. Carstensen is the designer of the Tivoli and Casino of Copenhagen, the principal public grounds of that city."

THE PALAZZO AGOSTINO, AT PISA.

The front of the Palazzo Agostino, which is on the Lung Arno, at Pisa, is wholly of moulded brick, or terra cotta, and was executed in the fifteenth century. Our engraving is made from a clever sketch on the spot, by Mr. Robinson, and in an ensuing number we shall give at large the details, some of which are very elegant.

Effect of Metals on Stone.—The effect of iron upon stone when exposed to the air and other influences is strikingly shown in the stone coping which receives the railing of Hyde Park from Knightsbridge to the "Corner." The standards, large in size, are let into the stone and run *with lead*, together with the end of the bottom-rail, which is turned down into the coping. Two or three years ago the damage which had been done by this arrangement was repaired, but the cause being left in operation the same results are following, and it may be seen that at many of these points a large piece of stone has been forced out by the oxidation and expansion of the metals.

Peel Monument.—On Thursday week another monument to the late Sir Robert Peel was inaugurated in Lancashire. This monument consists of a square tower, built of stone, on Holcombe-hill, at the cost of Mr. Joshua Knowles. The tower is 300 feet high, with spiral staircase to its summit, which commands an extensive view.

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